

## Chronic Disease Indicators: Indicator Definition



### Cancer of the prostate, mortality

Category:	Cancer
Demographic Group:	All male residents.
Numerator:	Deaths with International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10 code C61 (ICD-9 code 185) as the underlying cause of death among male residents during a calendar year.
Denominator:	Midyear resident male population for the same calendar year.
Measures of Frequency:	Annual number of deaths. Annual mortality rate — crude and age-adjusted (standardized by the direct method to the year 2000 standard U.S. population based on single years of age from the Census P25-1130 series estimates*) — with 95% confidence interval.
Time Period of Case Definition:	Calendar year.
Background:	During 2001, cancer of the prostate caused approximately 31,500 deaths. Approximately 221,000 new cases are diagnosed annually. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men; one in every six men will have prostate cancer during his lifetime. Black men have higher rates of prostate cancer incidence and mortality than do white men.
Significance :	Substantial evidence exists that prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening can detect early-stage prostate cancer, but evidence is mixed and inconclusive regarding the ability of early detection to improve health outcomes, including mortality. Screening is associated with critical harms, including frequent false-positive results and unnecessary anxiety, biopsies, and potential complications of treatment of certain cancers that might never have affected a patient's health. Evidence is insufficient to determine whether the benefits outweigh the harms for a screened population.
Limitations of Indicator:	Because prostate cancer can have a long latency period, years might pass before changes in behavior or clinical practice affect population mortality. Because of the lack of consensus regarding appropriate treatment of prostate cancer, secondary prevention efforts to reduce mortality through screening remain controversial.
Data Resources:	Death certificate data from vital statistics agencies (numerator) and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census or suitable alternative (denominator). <a href="http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/">http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/</a>
Limitations of Data Resources:	Causes of death and other variables listed on the death certificate might be inaccurate.
Healthy People 2010 Objectives:	3-7: Reduce the prostate cancer death rate.

SEER - Standard Populations (Millions) for Age-Adjustment <http://seer.cancer.gov/stdpopulations/>